

Schuyler, Baxter, Powers!

The Combination that Wants to
Hand Bloomfield Over to
Newark.

Unconditional Surrender

The Annexation Bill Will Ap-
plication to the Legislature on Tues-
day for the Passage of the Bill.

Less Schools, More Taxes.

Prospect of a Hasty Death for
the Good Old Town of Bloomfield.

Richard K. Schuyler, Thomas B. Baxter and Charles W. Powers have served notices upon the people of this town that they, the three persons above named, will apply to the Legislature on Tuesday, the 25th inst., for the passage of a bill that will terminate and destroy the corporate existence of the town of Bloomfield and annex the territory formerly known by that name to the city of Newark.

Mores, Schuyler, Baxter and Powers may have private reasons and grievances that prompt them to the amazing task of wiping out a long-established municipality with an honored career, and reducing it to the undignified and ignominious position of a part of one of the wards of a near-by city.

People who have been seeking for a time the most remarkable and ridiculous acts have invariably reached their consummation; Bloomfield has been too liberal in the cause of public education, too strict in its saloon policy, and the people too independent in their political actions to local officials.

The above is substantially the indictment upon which Messrs. Schuyler, Baxter and Powers will base their case against further local independence and home rule.

This agitation in advocacy of the abandonment of independent government here is based on misrepresentation. It is pleaded in favor of the step that Bloomfield is in a deplorable condition financially and politically. The townpeople, it is implied, have lost the faculty of self-government and property-owners are threatened with confiscation of their property in taxes and other public debts.

In politics it is claimed that the people have simply lost their heads, and all pretense of obedience to party mandates and party machinery are ignored and public offices are filled by independent action of the people in utter disregard of party relations and duty.

The implication that this town is hopelessly involved in debt and that the people have become incapacitated for self-government is a matter that had better be investigated before it is accepted.

Within the past ten years the town of Bloomfield has contracted very heavy financial obligations for municipal improvements, sewer, roads and schools bearing the chief features.

Within that period the town has been equipped with a sewer system. Many miles of stone road have been built, and a number of fine school-houses erected. The people now possess and enjoy the improvements. But they must pay for, and annexation to Newark will not be a way of escape from the debt. Outside of the large indebtedness incurred for the extensive improvements in roads and schools and the construction of a sewer system, the town of Bloomfield has been as economically and as well governed as any town of its size in the State. The average annual expense of local government exclusive of county and school taxes is \$75,000. The average annual expense account of a ward of the city of Newark is \$125,000, that is, exclusively of county and school expenses.

Thus Bloomfield pays all its governmental expenses and enjoys home rule besides for \$50,000 less than the annual expense account of any single ward of the city of Newark, and it will be conceded that the town of Bloomfield has more extensive and better police service than any ward in the city has, and also much better fire service, and the general conditions here are much preferable to those extant in North Roselle, Woodside, or other out-of-town points of the city of Newark.

The town of Bloomfield has rules by taxation for school purposes absorbed the \$55,000. The proportionate school tax expense of a single ward of the city of Newark is \$12,000, and the tax rate per thousand is \$1.00.

Continued on page 4.

Bloomfield, Home Rule, Independence!

People Becoming Aroused Over
Annexation.

Must Fight Against It.

**Is the Opinion of the Great Majority
of Citizens—Local Patriotism, Pride
and Dignity at Stake?**

Against Schools, in Favor of Saloons

Appears to be Prime Motive
Agitation of the Annexation
Bill.

Should the time-honored name of Bloomfield be effaced from the map of Essex County? Are the people of this community ready to surrender the political independence that attaches? Is the time arrived when the people of this town are willing to throw aside the valuable right of home rule and become a nonentity in the mass that makes up a great city? That is the question.

It was anticipated that Essex Truck Company would go mainly to Chief Higgins when Charles H. Ashley withdrew from the contest, but it seems that such was not the case.

Active Hose Company deliberately threw away the chance to elect a Chief from that company. Mr. Baab made his remarkable fight without the aid or sympathy of his own company, and the strength he developed was the surprise of the contest.

After the polls closed, and the result was made known, the scene of activity was transferred to the American House, where the frenzied extended congratulations to the Chief and were in turn thanked by him for the honor bestowed.

Councilman Unsgat of the House Committee named the Bloomfield City Hall as the official paper of the Council.

Councilman Farrand of the Police Committee recommended the appointment of Eben Griffith and John Blum as special policemen. These appointments, Mr. Farrand said, were made with the approval of the Chief of Police, and in the case of Blum, who is a Pionander, his appointment was recommended by the Police Committee of the previous year. Mr. Farrand said that the Chief had asked for the appointment of another regular policeman, and the Police Committee had the matter under consideration, but would advise further with the other members of the Council before recommending a recommendation.

Clerk Johnson read a communication from the State Sewerage Commission requesting that the Council take action towards having correct measurements made of the flow of sewage from this town during the month of June into the Passaic River through the union outlet sewer. The Commission's object in securing this data is to determine the probable size and capacity of a sewage disposal works for the treating of sewage of the Passaic Valley municipalities. The matter was referred to the Town Engineer and Sewer Inspector.

William Fornoff, who was elected a councilman from the Second Ward at the spring election, and whose office was declared vacant because he failed to qualify, petitioned the Council on Monday night to be appointed a constable. His petition was granted. It is understood that Mr. Fornoff's failure to qualify was due to the fact that he was not aware of the requirements of the law.

The monthly report of Chief of Police Louis M. Golino showed seventeen arrests during the month of April and \$29.30 collected in fines.

Conlan brought up the matter of the Linden Avenue improvement petition. Mr. Conlan stated that since those who objected to the improvement had learned that it could be paid for in ten annual payments, the objections had been withdrawn.

Mr. Farrand said that he understood that Linden Avenue was about 1,700 feet in length, and this represented about 3,400 feet of frontage to be improved.

The petition before the Council only represented about 1,300 feet of the frontage in the street, or less than half. Mr. Farrand favored taking steps towards ascertaining the opinion of the majority of the property-owners along the street before voting to carry out the improvement.

Chairman Ward stated that the legal requirement authorizing the Council to go ahead with the work was the petition of at least one-sixth of the property-owners, but it was optional with the Council to grant or refuse the petitioners' request, even if all the property-owners signed for it. Mr. Ward suggested that those property-owners who had objected in writing against the improvement now notify the Council by letter of the withdrawal of their objection. This was satisfactory to Mr. Conlan, and the matter was laid over until the next regular meeting of the Council.

Richard K. Schuyler, the originator and promoter of the petition, said that Mr. Farrand in his calculation of the amount of frontage on the street had failed to make allowance for cross streets, which represented several hundred feet that could not appear on the petition.

Town Attorney Halpin announced that in accordance with an application made to the Circuit Court Judge Swayne

had appointed Lewis Cockefair, Seymour E. Gilbert and Charles H. Underwood Commissioners to assess the benefits and damages for the Belleville Avenue storm-sewer construction.

Chief Higgins Re-elected.

The frenzied election took place Monday night at the Truck House and resulted in the re-election of Chief Engineer Bernard F. Higgins of Phoenix Hose Company. The vote was as follows: Bernard F. Higgins of Phoenix Hose Company, 30; William E. Baab of Active Hose Company, 23; William F. Walker of Excelsior Hose Company, 10; William Murrah of Active Hose Company, 6 votes.

Firemen who have been figuring out the result of the election say that Mr. Higgins got twelve votes from Phoenix, ten votes from Active, and six votes from Excelsior Hose Companies, and six votes from Essex Truck Company.

Mr. Baab was accounted for a follower of Essex Truck Company too, Phoenix Hose Company five, Excelsior Hose Company three. Mr. Walker's ten votes all came from his own company. Mr. Murrah, it is said, got four votes from Active Company and two from Excelsior Company.

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